

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 634

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: PS AND PPD LEADERS COMMENT ON AFM-PARTIES PACT

REF: LISBON 0569 (DTG 271245Z JAN 76)

SUMMARY: PROSPECTS ARE GOOD FOR EARLY CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT-PARTIES PACT, GIVEN FLEXIBILITY DEMONSTRATED BY REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL NEGOTIATORS AND INTEREST OF PARTIES IN MOVING TOWARD EARLY ELECTIONS. RELATIONS BETWEEN SOCIALIST AND POPULAR DEMOCRATS CONTINUE TROUBLED. END SUMMARY

1. PS ON PACT: SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) DEPUTY AND PACT NEGOTIATOR JAIME GAMA TOLD EMBOFF JAN 27 THAT RESULTS OF
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SECOND MEETING JAN 25 BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF REVOLUTIONARY

COUNCIL (RC) AND SOCIALISTS WERE EXCELLENT. VASCO LOURENCO LED OFF MEETING WITH STATEMENT INDICATING GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF EARLIER PS PROPOSALS. EANES ALSO PLAYED MAJOR AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE. RC NEGOTIATORS BACKED OFF HARD POSITIONS FAVOURING EXTENSIVE RC POWERS TO REVIEW AND INITIATE LEGISLATION AND TO RULE ON CONSTITUTIONALITY OF LAWS. GAMA SAID THAT SALGADO ZENHA, WHO LED PS DELEGATION, WEIGHED IN HEAVILY AGAINST ORIGINAL RC DRAFT. ZENHA CHARGED THAT IT WAS A SHABBY ATTEMPT BY MELO ANTUNES'S SOCIALIST INTERVENTION GROUP (EX-MES) ADVISORS TO PERPETUATE THEIR BEHIND-THE-SCENES INFLUENCE. MELO ANTUNES DID NOT DENY CHARGES. GAMA WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED, PERHAPS WITHOUT FURTHER PS BARGAINING SESSIONS WITH RC.

2. RELATIONS WITH PPD: GAMA SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY REPORTS THAT RECENT PPD NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING HAD APPROVED MOTION FAVORING MODERATION IN PPD ATTACKS ON PS. GAMA SAID THAT PS-PPD COALITION MAY BE LOGICAL CONSEQUENCE OF COMING ELECTIONS, BUT HE FEARED SUCH ALLIANCE WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE IF MUTUAL RECRIMINATIONS CONTINUED.

3. PPD ON PACT: MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS RUE MACHETE, WHO IS PPD NEGOTIATOR ON AFM-PARTIES PACT, TOLD EMBOFF JAN 28 THAT PPD WILL SEEK SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN RC POWERS IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH RC WHICH BEGIN JAN 29. HE EXPRESSED GREATEST CONCERN OVER RC PROPOSALS FOR RC VETO OVER PRIME MINISTER AND FOR RC AUTHORITY TO PASS AND REVIEW CONSTITUTIONALITY OF LEGISLATION. MACHETE EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO BE FLEXIBLE TO ALLOW RAPID AGREEMENT ON PACT NECESSARY FOR PROMPT ELECTIONS. PPD BELIEVED JUDICIAL REVIEW SHOULD BE LEFT TO COURTS, BUT COULD ACCEPT LIMITED MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN JUDICIAL REVIEW PROCESS. HE CONFIRMED THAT PPD PROPOSAL FOR REFERENDUM ON CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WAS PURELY A BARGAINING POSITION.

4. RELATIONS WITH SOCIALISTS: RUI MACHETE CATEGORIZED RELATIONS WITH SOCIALIST PARTY AS MEDIOCRE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE DAILY. HE REGRETTED THAT PS HAD NOT INFORMED PPD OF RESULTS OF LATEST PS PACT NEGOTIATIONS IN ORDER TO ALLOW COORDINATION OF PARTIES' POSITIONS ON PACT. HE SAID THAT NATIONAL COUNCIL HAD NOT

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SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSED QUESTION OF RELATIONS WITH PS, BUT LEFT THIS TO SECRETARIAT. HE SAID BEST SOLUTION FOR POST-ELECTION STABILITY WOULD BE PS-PPD GOVERNMENT, ALTHOUGH NO ONE COULD ADMIT THAT POSSIBILITY PUBLICLY UNTIL AFTER ELECTION.

5. COMMENT: PROSPECTS ARE GOOD FOR EARLY CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON AFM-PARTIES PACT GIVEN FLEXIBILITY DEMON-

STRATED BY RC NEGOTIATORS AND INTEREST OF PARTIES IN MOVING
RAPIDLY TOWARD EARLY ELECTIONS. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, ARMED
FORCES CHIEFS ARE ALSO CONFIDENT THAT AN AGREEMENT WILL
BE REACHED. RELATIONS BETWEEN PS AND PD ARE STILL TROUBLED.
THE PROSPECT OF POST ELECTORAL COOPERATION MAY EXERT SOME
MODERATING INFLUENCE ON THE LEADERSHIP OF THE TWO PARTIES.
BUT THE IMPERATIVES OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN, WHICH IS
ALREADY UNOFFICIALLY UNDERWAY, WILL CONTINUE TO STRAIN
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO LEADING CONTENDERS.
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